

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 06071 110818Z

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ACTION FSI-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 /018 W

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R 110727Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6541

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE

UNCLAS CANBERRA 6071

FOR FSI, EB AND COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BCOM, AS

SUBJECT: FOREIGN SERVICE E/C LOCALS TRAINING PROGRAM

REF: (A) STATE 213771; (B) CANBERRA 5367; (C) BRISBANE 0163

1. WE WISH TO DRAW FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENT TO DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION RESPECTING SELECTION OF LOFTUS HARRIS, AMCON BRISBANE, FOR OCTOBER 14 E/C FSLE TRAINING PROGRAM.

2. SINCE HARRIS WAS NOMINATED BY THE CONSULATE, HE HAS LEARNED THAT ACTION MAY POSSIBLY BE PENDING ON AN EARLIER APPLICATION HE HAD MADE FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN SERVICE. THE ADMISSION STANDARDS ARE RIGOROUS AND THE ODDS ARE AGAINST HIS BEING SELECTED FOR SUCH AN APPOINTMENT. HARRIS ESTIMATES THE CHANCE OF HIS BEING APPOINTED ARE AT BEST ONE IN THREE. BUT THE TIMETABLE IS SUCH THAT HE WOULD NOT KNOW THE OUTCOME OF HIS FOREIGN SERVICE APPLICATION BEFORE HE LEFT FOR WASHINGTON IN EARLY OCTOBER.

3. IN THE UNLIKELY BUT POSSIBLE EVENT THAT HE IS APPOINTED, HE WOULD BE REQUIRED TO REPORT TO THE FOREIGN SERVICE EARLY IN 1976 AND WOULD FOR THIS REASON BE FORCED TO RESIGN HIS PRESENT POSITION WITH THE CONSULATE SHORTLY AFTER RETURNING FROM THE FSI TRAINING PROGRAM. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES HARRIS PROPERLY FELT HE SHOULD INFORM US OF THIS SITUATION AS HE WISHES TO BE FAIR TO ALL CONCERNED.

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4. AMCON BRISBANE, CONSIDERING PROBABILITY HIGH THAT USG WILL RETAIN HARRIS' SERVICES FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE, STRONGLY HOPES THAT HARRIS WILL BE RETAINED IN FSI TRAINING PROGRAM DESPITE THIS SITUATION. HARRIS HAS OUTSTANDING ABILITY AND TALENT PROVEN OVER PAST THREE YEARS AND WOULD DERIVE GREAT STIMULUS AND BENEFIT IN HIS WORK FROM THE TRAINING PROGRAM. EMBASSY SHARES AMCON'S HIGH REGARD FOR HARRIS AND WOULD BE ANXIOUS THAT HE HAVE BENEFIT OF THIS TRAINING IF HE REMAINS IN USG POSITION.

5. EMBASSY AND AMCON BOTH FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT JUDGEMENT ON WHETHER TO SCHEDULE HARRIS FOR THIS YEAR'S TRAINING PROGRAM, OR DEFER HIM FOR NEXT YEAR'S PROGRAM AFTER OUTCOME OF AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN SERVICE APPLICATION DEFINITE MUST DEPEND IMPORTANTLY ON QUALITY AND PRIORITY OF OTHER CANDIDATES PASSED OVER IN HIS FAVOR AND DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE THAT THERE WOULD BE EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO RESCHEDULE HARRIS FOR LATER COURSE IN EVENT HIS PARTICIPATION POSTPONED FROM OCTOBER 1975 COURSE. THESE QUESTIONS CAN ONLY BE JUDGED IN WASHINGTON AND FOR THIS REASON WE BELIEVE IT DESIREABLE TO REFER ENTIRE QUESTION TO STATE AND COMMERCE FOR DECISION.

6. IN EVENT DEPARTMENT SHOULD DECIDE TO HOLD HARRIS OVER FOR 1976 PROGRAM, MISSION HAS ALTERNATE CANDIDATE WHICH IT WISHES TO NOMINATE AND REQUESTS OPPORTUNITY TO PROPOSE NEW NAME.
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